

MERCED WILD AND SCENIC RIVER COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENT PLAN/ ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

<i>Planning Element Description</i>	<i>Start Date</i>	<i>Duration</i>	<i>End Date</i>
1. Initiate internal meetings to strategize and program a new Merced River Plan/EIS.	8/2006	Ongoing	1/2009
2. Continue research on river planning methodologies nationwide.	8/2006	Ongoing	11/2008
3. Continue data collection and analysis in the Merced River corridor.	8/2006	Ongoing	1/2009
4. Assemble project core team and solicit consultants for compliance element.	12/2006	4 months	3/2007
5. Develop park and public outreach strategies.	12/2006	3 months	2/2007
6. Prepare & publish a Federal Register "Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement."	1/2007	2 months	3/2007
7. (Concurrently) Reach out to government and stakeholder entities.	12/2006	3 months	3/2007
8. (Concurrently) Prepare & distribute a project initiation/scoping newsletter.	12/2006	2-3 months	3/2007
9. (Concurrently) Assess data needs and initiate data collection and analysis as appropriate.	12/2006	Ongoing	9/2008
10. Court Hearing to establish timetable for the new plan.	1/2007		
11. Initiate park staff scoping.	2/2007	3 months	5/2007
12. Revisit Merced River Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs), and segment boundaries and classifications (i.e., recreation, scenic, or wild).	2/2007	3 months	5/2007
13. Initiate official consultation/coordination process (EPA, California SHPO, US Fish and Wildlife, American Indian tribes, US Forest Service, California Department of Transportation, BLM, Gateways)	3/2007	Ongoing	9/2009
14. Prepare for and conduct public scoping under NEPA.	3/2007	2 months	5/2007
15. Organize and analyze staff and public comments received during scoping.	3/2007	4 months	7/2007
16. Report to the Court on Plan progress.	7/2007		
17. Initiate drafting of the Affected Environment for the EIS.	7/2007	Ongoing	8/2009
18. Conduct public workshops to establish a draft range of "desired conditions" (aka management prescriptions) that would be protective of ORVs for different classifications and ORVs along the river.	7/2007	2 months	9/2007
19. Conduct public workshops to develop alternative management zones and user capacity management strategies that protect and enhance ORVs along the river.	9/2007	2 months	11/2007
20. Organize and analyze public comments received during workshops.	9/2007	6 months	1/2008
21. Develop an ORV management and monitoring program, including selection of effective indicators of success in protecting and enhancing ORVs.	1/2008	Ongoing	8/2009
22. Create a draft set of preliminary alternatives and publish in a newsletter for the public; conduct a series of meetings to communicate workshop and team consolidation results and ask for public comments.	2/2008	3 months	5/2008
23. Report to the Court on Plan progress.	2/2008		
24. Refine preliminary alternatives based upon comments, conduct Environmental Consequences analysis for the EIS, and identify preliminary General Management Plan elements to be amended.	5/2008	4 months	9/2008
25. Publish Draft Plan/EIS, Publish Notice of Availability in the Federal Register and distribute Draft Plan /EIS.	9/2008	4 months	1/2009

26. Public review period for Draft Plan/EIS (60 days).	1/2009	2 months	3/2009
27. Report to the Court on Plan progress.	1/2009		
28. Assemble, code, review, and respond to public comments. Revise plan accordingly.	2/2009	3 months	5/2009
29. Assemble, produce, print, and distribute the Final Merced River Comprehensive Management Plan/EIS including final General Management Plan amendments.	5/2009	2 months	7/2009
30. Publish a Notice of Availability in the Federal Register announcing release of the Final Merced River Comprehensive Management Plan/EIS.	5/2009	2 months	7/2009
31. A Record of Decision adopting the selected alternative and the final General Management Plan amendments will be signed by the Pacific West Regional Director not fewer than 30 days after release of the Final Plan/EIS.	8/2009	1 month	9/2009